Dragon Knights

Mineko Ohkami

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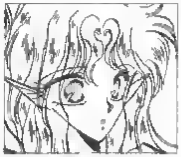
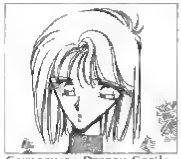


Tinilel – Elfin princess and protector of the Faerie Forest. Under Varawoo's sleep spell.



Cernozura – Dragon Castle Administrator. Attendant to Queen Raseleane and the giver of hearty meals.

Telheus – Black Dragon Officer and Secretary of Security. A paternal force for the young Dragon Knights.

Master Khail – A famous Yokai alchemist and sorcerer. Author of the legendary "Demon Bible."

Kitchel – Thief and former rival to Thatz. Searching for pieces of a map for the Dragon Lord.

Zoma – Yokai in love with Cesia. Unable to use his legs without the help of a magical bird.

Nadil – King of the Demons who was beheaded but remains a powerful force in the realm.

Shydeman & Shyrendora – Nadil's chief officers in defacto command of the demon army.

Bierrez – Yoka in Nadil's army and the only demon who can penetrate the shield of the Dragon Castle.

Thatz – Ex-thief turned Dragon Knight of Earth who has an insatiable appetite for food, drink and gold.

Rune – Dragon Knight of Water who longs to regain his Elfin powers and save his Faerie brood.

Rath Illuses – Dragon Knight of Fire who is obsessed with hunting demons.

Cesia – A Yokai raised by a witch whose mysterious powers are sought after by many.

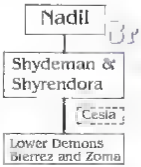
Raseleane – The Dragon Queen who has been made barren by the now deceased Lord Nadil.

Lykouleon – The Dragon Lord who, with his Dragon of Light, leads the Dragon Tribe.

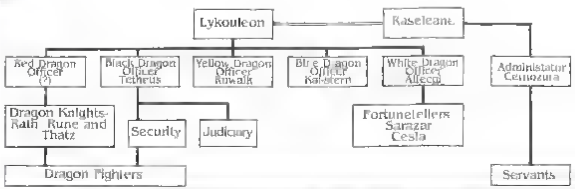
Ruwalk – Yellow Dragon Officer and Secretary of State. Assumes command when the Lord is away.

Alfeegl – White Dragon Officer and Chief Secretary. Oversees operations in the Dragon Castle.

Kaiselern – Blue Dragon Officer and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. A close friend to Rath.



Brought To You By-
Bloodie Seans



Dragon Knights

Volume 4

(HOME SWEET HOME)

by

Mineko Ohkami

From the Chronicles of the Dragon Knights

The Beginning: Nadil and Lord Lykouleon

When the Yokai Nadil kidnapped the Dragon Queen Raselene, The Dragon Lord Lycouleon ventured to the Demon Realm to rescue her. He defeated Nadil by cutting off his head, thereby saving Raselene, but not before the demon leader rendered her barren, unable to give Lykouleon a child... and the Dragon Kingdom an heir.

The Dragon Knights: Coming Together

Rath, part Yokai himself, unlocked the seal for the Dragon of Fire and became the first of the Dragon Knights to join the Dragon Tribe. Thatz, a human thief down on his luck, decided to steal the Dragon Rock from the Dragon Castle and inadvertently unlocked the seal for the Dragon of Earth. Rune, in a battle with the Demon Fish Varawoo, healed the Water Dragon, thereby unlocking its seal, but not without sacrificing the elfin princess Tintlet who remains in a sleep spell, keeping Varawoo contained. With Lord Lykouleon possessed of the Dragon of Light (Little Dues/Shin), only the Dragon of Wind has yet to be unlocked.

Beyond the Castle Walls: War on the Horizon

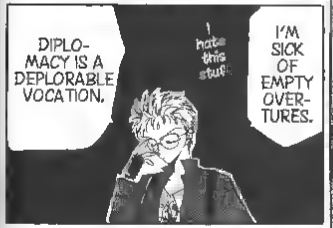
Jn commanders of Nadil's Demon army, Shydeman and Shyrendora had hoped to retrieve Nadil's head from the Dragon Tribe, thereby resurrecting their fallen leader. But their efforts have shifted to retrieving the Yokai Cesia who, having sought asylum in the Dragon Castle, unwittingly wields a mysterious power. The Yokai Pierrez is the only demon that has acquired the ability to penetrate the magical protective shield that Lykouleon has placed around the castle grounds, an ability he has not yet revealed to his demon compatriots. Pierrez has his own agenda that involves both Rath and the coveted Cesia.

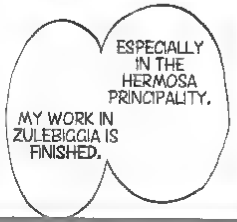
Within the Castle Walls: Strife at Home

Even with war imminent, the Dragon Tribe has internal problems to deal with. Zoma, Cesia's crippled companion, has gone missing; Rath may be dying; Rune longs to regain his elfin healing powers to rescue Tintlet and protect the Faerie Forest; and Thatz may be reunited with a past he'd probably rather forget.

I CAN MEET WITH THEM LATER.
THAT LEAVES TWO TO GO ON THIS TOUR.
KAISTERN OF "BLUE"
IT'S TIME TO CAST ASIDE THE DIPLO-MAT'S QUILL...
AND GET DOWN TO SOME REAL WORK.
BUT NOW...

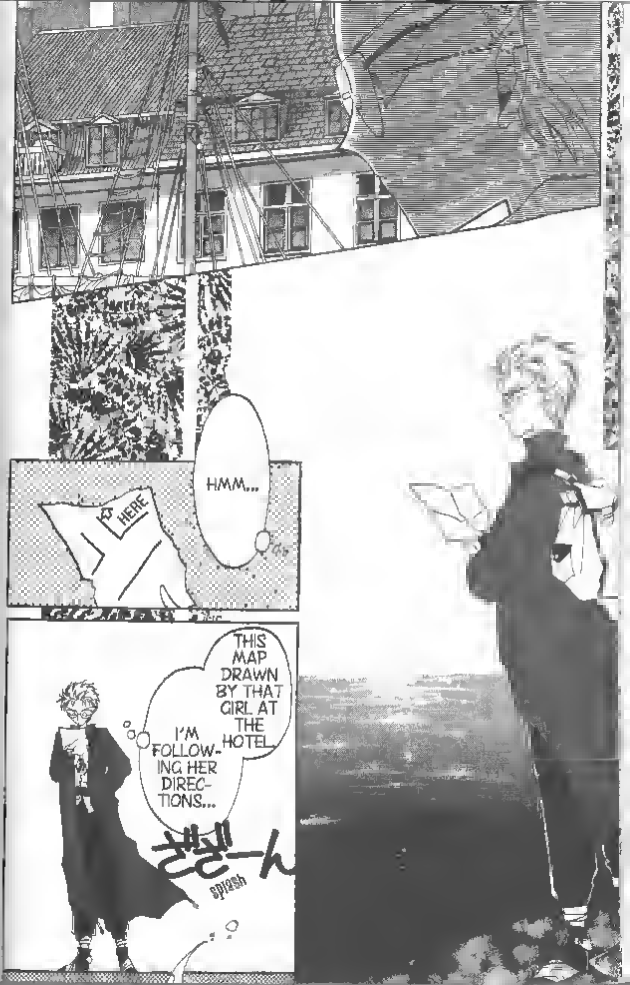
IF THE DEMONS ATTACK, HE'LL BE THE FIRST TO RUN SCREAMING TO THE DRAGON LORD!


DIPLO-MACY IS A DEPLORABLE VOCATION.
I hate this stuff!
I'M SICK OF EMPTY OVER-TURES.


ESPECIALLY IN THE HERMOSA PRINCIPALITY.
MY WORK IN ZULEBIGGIA IS FINISHED.

DAMN, THAT MINISTER HAS GOT THE TONGUE OF A POLITI-CIAN!
THE LAST THING HE'S THINKING ABOUT IS THE SAFETY OF ZULEBIGGIA?! GRRR!

Cindermint
I HAD BEST ASK SOME-ONE.
BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND THEM.
too distract.


HMM...
HERE
THIS MAP DRAWN BY THAT GIRL AT THE HOTEL
I'M FOLLOW-ING HER DIREC-TIONS...
splash

I FINALLY FOUND IT. *HIC*
DESPITE THE IMBIBING I SUFFERED TO LEARN WHERE IT IS.
drank too much.
SO THAT'S THE HAUNTED CAVE.
HIC THE FABLED DEN OF EVIL.
ぎぃ〜

NO GOOD NO.!!
YEP. THAT'S A DEMON, ALRIGHT.

I HOPE THEY WERE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEMON.
WHERE IS IT?
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO CONSCIOUSLY SEEK A FIGHT.
BUT I NEED A...
HUH?
!!

!!

A TAD BEHIND YOUR MARK, SLOW-POKE!
CREWCER!!
OOPS.
HE'S BACK AT THE CASTLE.

I HAVE TO STRIKE FROM BENEATH!
HIS ARMS STRETCH.

?!
chit
chit
chit
chit
IT'S UNBORN-CHILDREN?!
YUCK!
THE ONLY WAY IS TO USE POISON!
FIP
STOP
THAT ...
...DID THE TRICK.
....
THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN SHEER ECSTASY FOR RATH.

WOW.
THAT'S THE SWORD THEY GAVE YOU?
BUT IT BELONGS TO LORD LYCOULEON, RIGHT?
HE'S NOT USING IT.
AND HE SAID THAT I CAN USE IT, FOR THE TIME BEING.

IT'S A SHAME I COULDN'T CARRY SOME BACK TO HIM.
Even a baby one.
WELL, OTHERS WILL COME.

I'M GOING OUT.
You'll get wet.
IT'S RAINING.
BUT...
HUH? OUT?
THAT WAS STRANGE.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINK-ING.
RUNE'S UP TO SOME-THING.
SATAN

I STILL REMEMBER IT.
AND I SAW HIM WIELD THIS SWORD AGAINST A POWERFUL YOKAI.
ONCE, LONG AGO, I FOLLOWED HIM BEYOND THE CASTLE GROUNDS,
sigh
OH, GREAT.
rub rub
NOW I CAN REALLY KICK SOME DEMON ASS.
What I d do?
Nice going, Ratn.
HEY, RUNE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SORRY. JUST ME. DISAP-POINTED?
BIERREZ?
!
Rath
THE LADY'S IN A FOUL MOOD.
WHAT?
BINGO
YOU'RE JUST ITCHING FOR BIERREZ TO SHOW HIS FACE AGAIN, HUH?!
HMPF!
ALL MEN EVER THINK ABOUT IS BLOOD AND...

swish
NO SIGN OF BIERREZ.
RIGHT.
WHO'S THERE?!
UTKES!

YOU KILLED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?!
NO! OF COURSE I DIDN'T KILL HIM!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!
I DEMAND TO KNOW WHERE HE IS!
IS HE THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
WHAT'LL I TELL HER?
HE'S THE ONLY ONE
WHO'S EVER BOTHERED TO PROTECT ME.

OH NO
NO. ZOMA IS...
I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!
OOPS
SHOOT
HE MUST HAVE TAKEN ZOMA.
UH... WELL...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

ZOMA'LL EXPLAIN WHEN HE COMES BACK.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL HER.
BECAUSE...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HER?

AND TELL ME WHERE HE IS?
ARE YOU GOING TO STOP GLARING.
SHOULDN'T EVEN BOTHER YOU WITH MY CONCERNS?!
SUPPOSE BIERREZ DID TAKE HIM AWAY...
.....
I SEE YOU HAVE A LOT ON YOUR MIND!
OW...
.....

ARE YOU DEAD?
YOOHOO! RUNE!
HE STILL CAN'T HEAR ME?
WAKE UP, YOU LAZY ELF! IT'S NOON ALREADY!
AHEM!
HEY, OGRE! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M MEDITATING?!
I'll whack his head.
WELL, WHEN IN DOUBT-
...USE BRUTE FORCE.
amateur

I DUNNO.
WHERE IS EVER-BODY?
LUNCH IS SERVED!
HEY, RUNE!
ARE YOU DEAF!
RUNE!

NOW, I CAN'T EVEN BLOOM A WILTED FLOWER.
MY "ZONING OUT" IS A WAY TO FIND A SOURCE FOR THIS BLOCK.
ANY LUCK?
IT SOUNDS HARD.

WHEN I BECAME A DRAGON KNIGHT, MY HEALING ABILITIES VANISHED.
I NEED THOSE ABILITIES TO FEEL WHOLE AS A MEMBER OF THE ELFIN RACE.
AND THE WATER DRAGON ALONE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP VARAWOO SEALED.
I NEED TO HEAL TINTLET ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THE MONSTER'S TOMB.

NOT YET, BUT I'VE LEARNED GREATER CONTROL OVER WATER.
I MADE THIS.

WHAT IS IT?
A HEAVEN'S AQUA-BALL.
IT'S ABLE TO HOLD VAST AMOUNTS OF WATER.

I WAS JUST TESTING YOUR LEVEL OF FOCUS.
I knew it all along
.....

SO,
WHY THE ZONING OUT, ANYWAY?

HUH?
THE NATURAL POWER TO HEAL
YOUR WHAT?
ALL ELVES HAVE IT.

I'M TRYING TO REGAIN MY ELFIN POWERS.

SOME-THING I REMEMBER THAT ELFIN FORTUNE TELLER DELTE SAYING.
ABOUT RATH.
MAYBE WE SHOULD TELL THE DRAGON LORD.
SHE SAID HE'S DYING... REMEMBER?
?!
NOW HE NEEDS TO FOCUS ON THE YOKAI.
WE WILL, BUT NOT NOW

UH, SURE.
CAN I HAVE IT?
WOW! THAT'S COOL!
IT CAN COME IN HANDY ON LONG JOUR-NEYS.
IS HE GOING SOME-WHERE?
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING.
WAIT. HOLD ON.
HMM?

WHAT THE HELL?!
!!

THATZ?!
THATZ?!
[OH]
ANSWER ME!
THATZ!!

THATZ!
!

RUNE, SIR!
WE'RE HERE!
HURRY UP!
THATZ NEEDS HELP!
gasp
HUH?

I DON'T CONSIDER THE DRAGON TRIBE MUCH OF A THREAT.
NO. NOW I GET TO WATCH YOU DIE.
OH?
THINK NOT?
I'M BA-ACK.
JUST LIKE I PROMISED, DARLING. DISAP-POINTED?
WHAT?
COLOR-FUL, BUT TINGED WITH BLIND OPTI-MISM.
RATH WILL RIP OUT YOUR THROAT AND COOK IT FOR BREAKFAST- HE'LL STOP YOU.

IT LOOKS BAD.
IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW.

BY ALL MEANS. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
WHY AM I SO IMPORTANT?
WHY DOES NADIL'S ARMY NEED ME?
YOU SEE...
IT'S NOT JUST NADIL'S ARMY.
BECAUSE WITH YOU...
WAIT...
DEMON AND DRAGON ALIKE.
YOU'RE VALUABLE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO UNLOCK VAST AMOUNTS OF POWER.
!

RIGHT NOW, YOUR PRECIOUS DRAGON TRIBE IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN FIGHTING...
OTHER DEMONS
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE NEWS?
IS THAT
...SO?
I'M NOT SO GOOD.
CRUNCH
IF YOU ANSWER ME ONE QUESTION, I'LL GO WITH YOU... PEACEFULLY.
I'D RATHER NOT HAVE TO USE THE RING ON YOU.
SO BE A GOOD GIRL.

YOU WANT THE ANSWER?
FINE. I'LL TELL YOU.
AND THEN RIP YOUR THROAT OUT.
...TO GIVE ME THE ANSWER....
BIERREZ.
YOU ARE NOT ...!!
!?
WHO ARE YOU?
NOT BAD.
YOU SAW THROUGH MY DISGUISE.
...ONLY WISH...
...YOU WERE FOOLED LONG ENOUGH...
RATH! UNLOCK THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW!
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
LET ME OUT!
ANYONE THERE?
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

CESIA'S PRESENCE..
CAN AMPLIFY POWER. ANYONE'S POWER. WITHOUT HER EVEN HAVING TO WILL IT.
A DEMON'S POWER,
OR THE DRAGON LORD'S LIGHT!
SHE WAS JUST A SCARED LITTLE CHILD.
THAT'S WHY NADIL TOOK HER.
WAIT A SEC... YOUR NAME'S CREWGER, RIGHT?
DID YOU JUST...
YOU CAN TALK.
...TALK?
OH.
THANK YOU.
DID YOU OPEN THE DOOR?
I'M GETTING HUNGRY.
was kidnapped at lunchtime
UH...
YOU'RE RATH'S DOG. I FORGET YOUR NAME.
WELL, THANKS FOR OPENING THE DOOR.

I'M TAKING HER BACK!!
THANKS FOR THE ANSWER I SOUGHT.
NOW IT'S EVEN MORE NECESSARY FOR ME TO KEEP ANY YOKAI FROM STEALING HER AGAIN.
...GO THROUGH ME FIRST!
IF YOU WANT HER, BIERREZ...
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO...

The Wind opened Nadil's eyes in Misty Valley!
And it gave me power in Chantell
It was her Wind
IT MAKES SENSE NOW.
BUT HE TRAINED HER.
TRAINED HER TO HARNESS HER ABILITY TO CONTROL THE WIND.
WITH CESIA AT THE CASTLE...
THE LORD'S LIGHT MUST BE REALLY POWERFUL AGAINST DEMONS.
HA!
HE'S NOT THAT POWERFUL. DON'T SWOON... OR REST COMPLACENT.

I'M ALWAYS UP FOR A FAIR FIGHT?
CLICK
THOSE EYES!
I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE!!

!!

THIS IS A SAFE PLACE?
OKAY. THANKS.
I MUST ...
I MUST HELP THEM!

WHAT? IT'S NOT JUST HIM?!
THERE'RE MANY?!
THERE'S A DEMON HERE?
IS IT BIERREZ?
pull
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
OKAY. I KNOW.

THIS DEMON ...
....
HOW CAN THEY PENETRATE THE LORD'S PROTECTIVE SHIELD?
HOW MANY ARE THERE?!

THE WITCH'S CRYSTAL BALL...

HOW MANY ARE LEFT?
TOO MANY.
THEY'RE COMING IN DROVES.
WE MAY HAVE TO EVACUATE THIS AREA.
IT'S AS IF THEY'RE APPEARING MAGICALLY.
HE'S TRY-ING TO STREGTHEN THE SHIELD.
WHERE'S THE LORD?

THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
WATER!
HERE WE GO!
WE CAN'T LET THEM ADVANCE.
IF I HAD MY ELFIN POWERS, I COULD HEAL THATZ!
THEY HAVE HIS ABILITY TO RESIST THE SHIELD.
THEY'RE BORN OF HIS MATTER.
THE DEMONS ARE BEING GENERATED BY BIERREZ.

DRAGON LORD...
MY WIND CAN ONLY GO SO FAR
WHAT HELP COULD I POSSIBLY BE?!
BUT I'M NOT READY.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED ME TO STAY IF I WERE USELESS...
JUST DO MY BEST?
BUT AT MY BEST I CAN ONLY CONTROL WIND.
I CAN'T. I DON'T KNOW HOW.
I CAN'T DO ANY OTHER MAGIC!
OH, RATH IS!
WAIT. IF WE DEFEAT BIERREZ ...
AND NOW HE'S PROBABLY FIGHTING BIERREZ!
it's what he was waiting for.
HE LOCKED ME IN THAT CLOSET!
はっ
ppp

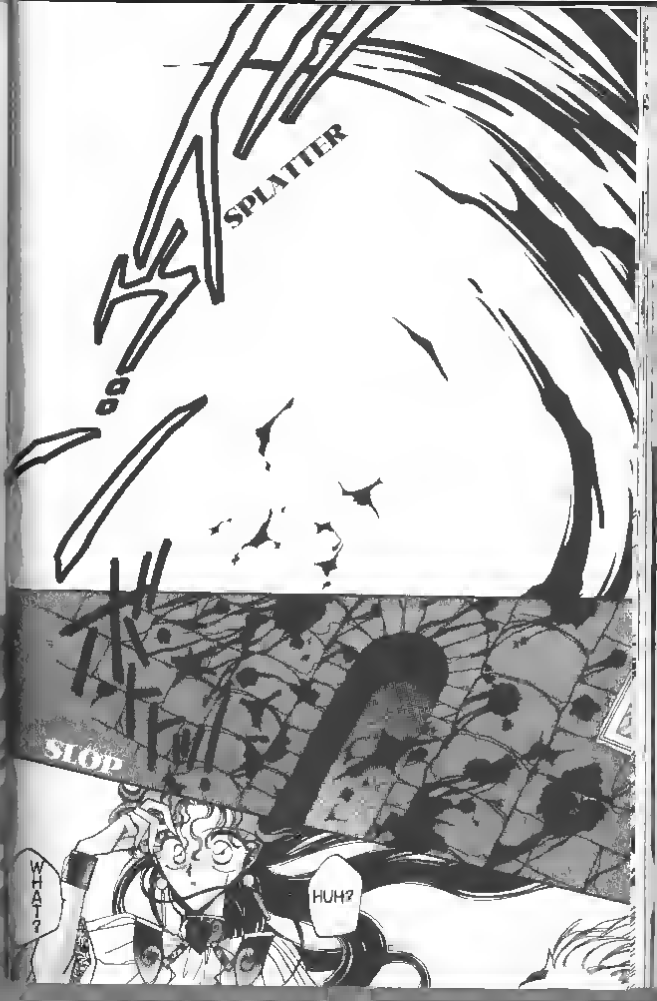
WHEN DID BIERREZ LEARN TO CREATE DEMONS?
THATZ HAS BEEN WOUNDED BADLY.
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS.
SEVERAL DRAGON OFFICERS ARE INJURED AS WELL.
THE DEMONS ARE COMING TOO FAST.
HOW CAN WE HELP THEM, CREWGER?

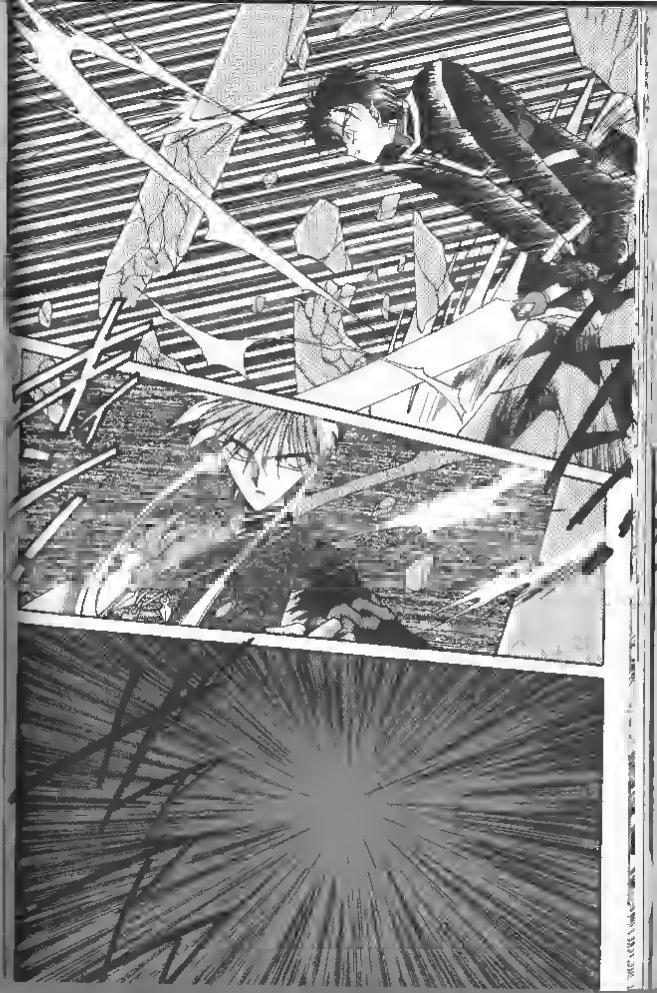
!
FOG?
WHAT THE...?
WIND?
AN ILLUSION!
I'LL HELP RATH BY CREATING AN ILLUSION!
THEY CAN'T EXIST WITHOUT HIM!
...THE DEMONS WOULD LOSE THEIR LIFE FORCE!
THIS MIGHT JUST WORK!
WIND.

HE'S CAUGHT IN THE WIND!
!
THATZ, SIR! WHERE ARE YOU?
RUNE!!

あら?
...BEAST?
RUNE?
A CYCLOPIAN..
NOT ENTIRELY WHAT I INTENDED...
BUT NOT ENTIRELY UNEFFECTIVE.
RIGHT?
I GOT CONFUSED.
GRRRR!
Oh no! What is that?
?!

ITS BLOOD
AND PIECES OF DEMON.
RAIN.
splash
splash


SPLATTER
SLOP
HUH?
WHAT?



WHAT HAPPENED?
THE CRYSTAL BALL...
RUNE...
RUNE.
SIR!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
YOUR HAIR... IT'S TURNED ...
WHERE'S THATZ?
HE'S OVER THERE.

...HAVE CHANGED FORM?
THE WATER AND EARTH DRAGON KNIGHTS HAVE CHANGED FORM...
MY ILLUSION SUCKED. BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE OUT OF DANGER.
I NEED TO PRACTICE MY MAGIC.
I just don't get the Dragon Tribe.
BUT HOW?
THEY ARE EACH STRONGER, MORE POWER-FUL.

SIR! ARE YOU OKAY?
?!
HUH?
AM I ALIVE?
THATZ?!
IT LOOKS LIKE I SLEW SOME DEMONS.
BUT I FEEL DIFFER-ENT.
I CAN'T REMEM-BER...
LOOK!
HIS WOUNDS HAVE HEALED!

Ruwalk said the same thing.
RATH IS GOING TO HAVE TO FACE BIERREZ ALONE.
WE NEED TO REPORT WHAT WE'VE LEARNED TO THE DRAGON LORD.
MY POWERS HAVE TO BE OF USE SOMEHOW.
I HAVE TO BE USEFUL ...
SOME-HOW.

OW!!
NOW, WHERE ARE YOU BIERREZ ...
RATH HAS FOUND HIM.
IT'LL BE OKAY.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT RATH IS IMMUNE TO MY MAGIC.
I CAN'T SEE HIM IN MY CRYSTAL.
I wonder why...
THE SAME THING HAPPENED LAST TIME,
WHEN I TRIED TO DISCOVER WHOSE GRAVE RATH VISITS,
MY SPELL FAILED.

HIS ENERGY IS FAMILIAR.
IT'S UNSETTLING.
YAAA A!
HE'S NOT ENTIRELY DRAGON!

THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW WHO I TRULY AM ARE THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE DRAGON TRIBE...
...AND YOU.
YOU SHOULD.
!
EVERY-ONE ELSE IS DEAD.
"RATH" WAS JUST SOME RANDOM MONIKER, CHOSEN BY ONE OF THE OFFICERS.
ILLUSER ?!
BUT YOU RECOG-NIZE THE NAME ILLUSER.
I NEVER HAD A NAME...
SO THE DRAGON TRIBE GAVE ME ONE. RATH ILLUSER.

HATE TO BE RUDE..
BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE?
WHAT?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME..
BIERREZ?

OW
... He's so stron

I REMEMBER NOW. WHEN I WAS DRAWN TO ILLUSER'S LIGHT...
... AND YOU WERE THERE.

IT WAS YOU!!
YES.
IT WAS ME.

CESIA!
DID YOU ...
HEAR US?
SO, I'LL LEAVE YOU AND YOUR IMAGINARY FRIENDS TO TALK ABOUT WHATEVER?!
I'M ON MY WAY TO SEE THE DRAGON LORD!
LOOK!
DON'T BAT THOSE BIG EYES AT ME!
WHAT?
DID YOU HEAR OR DIDN'T YOU?!

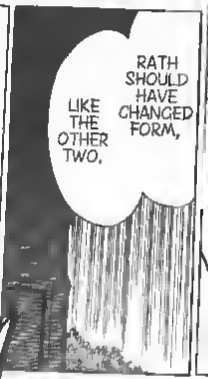
YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING, RATH?
I'M GONNA GO FINISH BEATING UP BIERREZ.
OH.
OKAY THEN.
OH, I SEE YOU GOT OUT OF THE CLOSET! GOOD FOR YOU.
NOT SO FAST.
GREAT.
MAYBE THEY SAVED YOU SOME LUNCH.
NOW I'M GLAD I CAN'T SEE HIM IN MY CRYSTAL BALL!
DON'T LET BIERREZ KIDNAP YOU. NOTHING WOULD ANNOY ME MORE THAN HAVING TO STAGE A RESCUE.
ONE MORE THING.

I WAS FOOLISHLY SHORT-SIGHTED.
I'VE FAILED!
DAMN.
THAT MAN!
HE USED MASTER KHARL'S MAGIC TO MAKE DEMONS.
スル

WHAT WAS THE DRAGON LORD THINK-ING?!
HE GAVE IT A DRAGON NAME? AND TREATS IT LIKE ONE OF HIS OWN?!
NO...
YOK

BUT NADIL'S ARMY...
WILL NEVER GET CESIA BACK.
WHAT?
ching!
ching!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINK-ING.

HEY, WAIT A SECOND.


RATH SHOULD HAVE CHANGED FORM, LIKE THE OTHER TWO.

?
BLOCKED!!
YOU!
WHO ARE YOU?!
SORRY.
DAMN IT!

THEY'RE GONE...
THATZ?
RUNE?
I WONDER WHO HIS NEW FRIEND IS.
BIERREZ'LL BE BACK.

ASHES?!
?!
SOME-ONE WHO'S COME..
... FOR THIS.

WHERE IS HE?
HE'S STILL SURVEY-ING THE BATTLE SITE, MY LORD.
YOUR MAJESTY, HERE'S TETHEUS REPORT ON THE BATTLE.

SO THE REPORT IS QUITE FAVOR-ABLE.
AND RUNE HAS HEALED ALL THE INJURED FIGHTERS.

YOU LET HIM GET AWAY?!
CESIA SAID THAT THERE WAS AN ARCANE MAGIC AT WORK.
HOW DID THE DEMONS GET INTO THE CASTLE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
GOOD.

cut it off
HA HA
OH WOW.

HM?
HAVE YOU REGAINED YOUR ELFIN POWERS AS WELL?
UH ---

YES, SIRE.

BOTH OF YOU LOOK SO DIFFERENT.
RUNE.

WELL...
THERE WERE A FEW INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS.
WAU TO GO, SLICK.
OOF!
hmph
hmph
GRRR
DEVELOPMENTS?
YOUR MAJESTY! THIS ISN'T FUNNY! WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
PLEASE SAY IT WASN'T A DEMON.
TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!
SPIT IT OUT, RATH!
ARE YOU CAUSING PROBLEMS AGAIN?
I-I-I DON'T KNOW!!!

YOU'RE HAPPY ABOUT THAT?
sigh
OH MY GOD!
I'LL GET HIM THEN.
SO HE'LL BE BACK.
YEP.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. HE STILL HAS THE ABILITY TO PENETRATE THE SHIELD, RIGHT?
RATH LET A DEMON GET AWAY?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
what the heck...
HUH?
HAVE YOU LOOKED IN A MIRROR?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS?

SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF ME?
I'VE MADE A MODEST LIFE FOR MYSELF DABBLING IN THINGS DEMONIC.
YOU WROTE THE DEMON BIBLE.

HMPH.
AH. DID YOU FIND IT USEFUL? OR, AT THE VERY LEAST COMPELLING?

WELCOME.
MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT HERE.
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM KHARL THE ALCHEMIST.

THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL ONCE. BUT LIFE BIRD DIED.
AND RIGHT BIRD IS NOT AS ADEPT AT SCULPTING HER BRAINS.
IT HAS FORCED ME INTO RETIREMENT.
HOWEVER, YOUR EMERGING ONTO THE SCENE...
HAS GIVEN ME RENEWED INSPIRATION.
NO.
YOU'VE BROUGHT ME HERE TO BE AN AUDIENCE FOR YOUR RENEWED INSPIRATION?

AM I?
YOUR SPOOKY LITTLE TREE STUMP OVER THERE SEEMED TO GET THROUGH EASILY?
YOU'RE THE ONLY YOKAI WHO CAN ENTER THE DRAGON CASTLE.
WHY'D YOU BRING ME HERE?
I'M HUMAN, NOT YOKAI.
HE WORKS FOR ME.
GARFAKCY USED MAGICAL ASHES THAT I'VE CREATED.
HUMAN? USING MAGIC?
YOUR REPUTATION PRECEEDS YOU, A MASTER BUILDER OF THE MACABRE, SO TO SPEAK.
STILL MAKING DEMONS?
SO WHAT'S THE FAMOUS ALCHEMIST KHARL DOING THESE DAYS?

YOU WANT TO RECOVER A DEMON NAMED CESIA...
A YOUNG GIRL OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO NADIL AND HIS MALODOROUS HORDES.
YES?
I AM SORRY THAT YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE.
WOULD YOU LIKE MY HELP...
BIERREZ?

OH.
THERE WAS A LOT OF ACTIVITY LAST NIGHT.
AND DID YOU HAVE A PLEASANT SLEEP?
Fou, Gran, and...
MORNING, ALL! DORO, TANGY, GUNAN...
CESIA?...
BREAK-FAST'S HERE!

GOOD MORNING, CREWGER!

YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF THE DARNAS, CESIA?
pub pub
?
Aaargh!
thump thump
SO, THEY ALL WENT ON A SCOUT MISSION?
THIS MORNING?
YEAH. THEY NEED ATTENTION.
splash splash
HUH?
shake shake
UH... GARAVA AND BUBULY?
NO?
Uh...
DID I BRING TOO MUCH?
UM, GEA AND GARLING!
here
SO ALL THE DARNAS* ARE OUT TODAY,
EH?
dragons
HEY!
WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?
I BROUGHT FOOD.
thud

WHAT?
Only I can hear them?
Why?
THAT'S STRANGE.

I CAN'T.
CAN YOU TALK TO THE DARNAS, AS WELL?
SURE.
BUT YOU CAN HEAR HIM, TOO.
CAN'T YOU?
C-
CREWGER TALKS TO YOU?
YEAH. BUT THEY HAVE A LIMITED VOCABULARY.
SO, IF YOU CAN HEAR CREWGER, YOU MUST ASK HIM SOMETHING.
NEITHER THE LORD NOR RATH CAN HEAR HIM.
YOU HEAR THEM SPEAK?
?
SHE'S LIKE A FAIRY...
TO HAVE THIS GIFT ...
UH...
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

WHAT?!
I JUST SAW HIM COME IN.
HE'S WITH THE LORD.

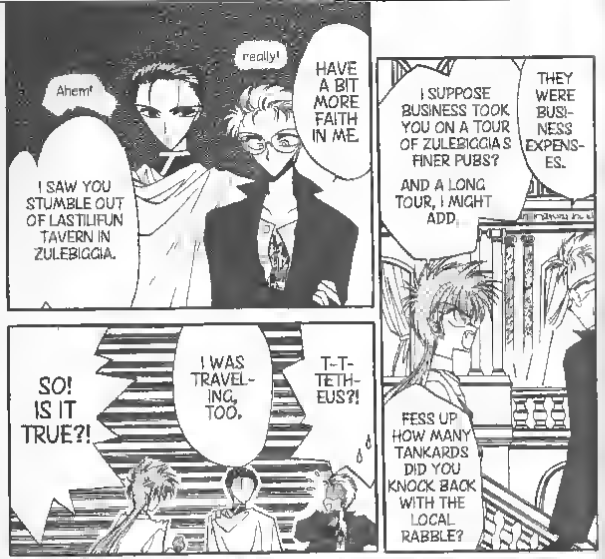
KAI-STERN, WHY COULDN'T YOUR TIMING HAVE BEEN BETTER?
oh man
they're here
LOOK AT 'EM GO.

KAI-STERN!
THE FISHING INDUS-TRY'S DOING WELL, AND...
...?
BUT LIFE WAS PEACEFUL ENOUGH.
THAT SILVER-TONGUED MINISTER'S STILL CALLING THE SHOTS
GOOD JOB. HOW'S ZULEBIGGIA?

EVEN AFTER I TOLD YOU NOT TO!
YOU GAVE KAI-STERN EXTRA MONEY FOR HIS TRIP!
BUT, THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
GULP
RUWALK!
THIS REPORT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
WHAT'S WRONG?

Well, don't get mad at me!
THIS SCREWS UP THE BUDGET NUMBERS!
HE'S ONLY SUPPOSED TO GET MONEY FROM ME OR THE LORD!
YOU DO THIS EVERY TIME!
HEY.

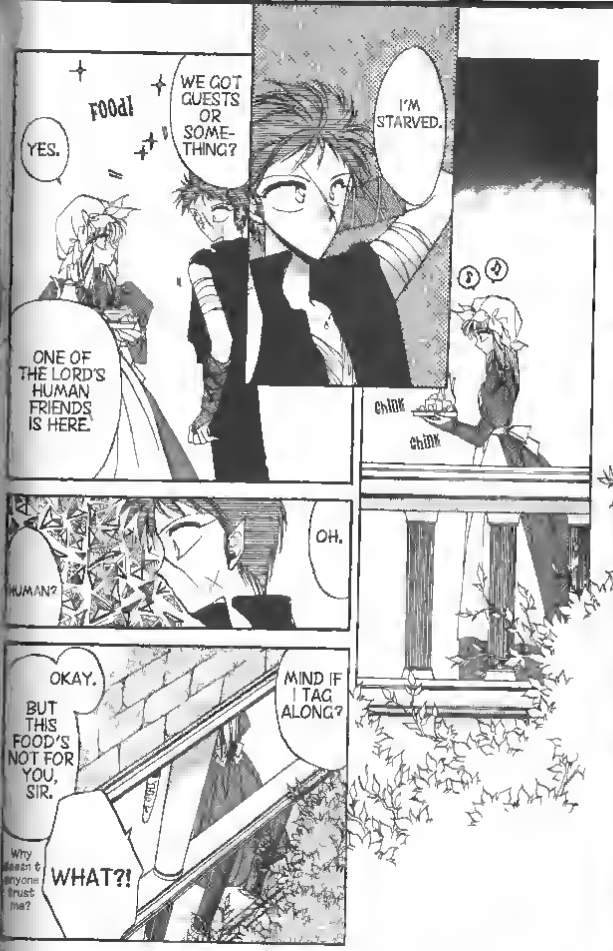
OH, YEAH. HE'S BACK.
ARGUING OVER KAI-STERN'S EXPENSE REPORTS.
THE SAME OLD STUFF.
AND THEM?
what does he need so much cash for?
okay
JUST READ-ING.
WHAT'S UP?
it's a hobby


Ahem!
really!
HAVE A BIT MORE FAITH IN ME.
I SAW YOU STUMBLE OUT OF LASTILIFUN TAVERN IN ZULEBIGGIA.
I SUPPOSE BUSINESS TOOK YOU ON A TOUR OF ZULEBIGGIA'S FINER PUBS?
AND A LONG TOUR, I MIGHT ADD.
THEY WERE BUSINESS EXPENSES.
FESS UP. HOW MANY TANKARDS DID YOU KNOCK BACK WITH THE LOCAL RABBLE?
SO! IS IT TRUE?!
I WAS TRAVELING, TOO.
T-T-TETHEUS?!
MY LORD!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COVER FOR HIM, YOUR MAJESTY.
DON'T YOU TRUST THE LORD'S JUDGEMENT?!
GO EASY ON HIM. HE HAD GOOD REASONS FOR EVERYTHING HE DID.
I SENT KAI-STERN ON A SPECIAL MISSION, ALFEEGI.

RATH?
?
?
KAI-STERN! EXPLAIN THE DISPERSION OF FUNDS DURING YOUR TRIP! ANY LEFT?
ALFEEGI'S GONNA BUST YOUR BALLS.
HUH?
YOU HAVE TERRIBLE TIMING.
It's too bad.

MY LORD, I BROUGHT THAT GIRL YOU WANTED BACK WITH ME.
THE ONE FROM THE BAR.
A COAT?
KEEP IT.
OH, HER.
PUSH
PUSH
THANKS FOR HIDING IT IN THE COAT, KAI-STERN.
demon info
MY LORD!
ENOUGH DIRT ON DEMONS TO MAKE YOU SALIVATE.
WHADYA GET ME?
どばぁ!?
NO, NOT ME. PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE LORD ALFEEG!
FINE... I TRUST YOU.
WHACK
はぁ!
OH.
?
WE SHOULD ALL BE ATTENDING TO MORE SERIOUS MATTERS!
....
OOOP
GRAB
He's about to cry

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT AQUITANIA.
WE'VE ALSO RECEIVED IRREGULAR REPORTS FROM OTHER ELFIN GROVES.
MY LORD...
WE DON'T HAVE FINAL CONFIRMATION...
BUT EARLY REPORTS SUGGEST THAT ALL LIFE THERE HAS BEEN DESTROYED.
I HAVE SOME NEWS.
CAN IT WAIT? I MUST SEE A QUEST.
IT IS URGENT.
A TRAGEDY HAS BEFALLEN THE FAERIE FOREST.
FAERIE FOREST?!
GO ON, TETHEUS.


I'M STARVED.
WE GOT GUESTS OR SOME-THING?
FOOD!
YES.
ONE OF THE LORD'S HUMAN FRIENDS IS HERE.
chink
chink
OH.
HUMAN?
MIND IF I TAG ALONG?
OKAY.
BUT THIS FOOD'S NOT FOR YOU, SIR.
WHAT?!
Why doesn't anyone trust me?

LORD LYKOULEON WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.
PLEASE WAIT RIGHT HERE.
SIR THATZ, MEET ONE OF LORD LYCOULEON'S DEAR FRIENDS, MISS KITCHEL.

NO, I DIDN'T KNOW. JUST LIKE YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ME UNTIL JUST NOW EITHER, YOU BACK-STABBING BIT...
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
HOW ELSE WAS I SUPPOSED TO FIND THE MAP PIECES FOR HIM?
OF COURSE HE GAVE IT TO ME.
I HAVE ONLY ONE MORE PIECE TO FIND. BUT I'LL NEED THE OTHERS TO CONTINUE.
YOUR MAJESTY ...
YOU'VE FOUND ALL OF THEM?
YES!
AND I'M ONLY A STEP AWAY FROM FINDING THE THREE TREASURES FOR YOU!

K-K-
KITCHEL?!
HUH?
THATZ?! WHAT THE HELL?!!
HE'S A DRAGON KNIGHT? THE WORLD REALLY IS DOOMED.
AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE RECENTLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEACE?
I KNEW YOU WERE BOTH THIEVES ONCE, BUT...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU KNEW EACH OTHER.
THE LORD GAVE YOU THE RADAR ROCK?
IM-POS-SI-BLE.

I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE WITH THIS PICK-POCKET!!
NO WAY!!
ガターン!
AND, LORD!
WHAT IF BIERREZ COMES BACK?
I DON'T NEED HELP!
YOU'LL NEED ME HERE!
SHE STOLE MY MONEY AND LEFT ME STRANDED!
I CAN'T LET THATZ COME WITH ME!
HE'LL GOUGE ME FOR EVERY-THING I HAVE AND LEAVE ME STRANDED AND SOME...!
I DON'T TRUST THIS LIAR ANY MORE THAN SHE CAN THROW ME!
KITCHE..
you'll probably run into demons.
THE TASK IS DANGER-OUS- I MUST SEND A DRAGON KNIGHT WITH YOU.

THE DEMONS HAVE SEEPED FURTHER INTO THE PEACEFUL LANDS, KITCHE!.
YOU'VE BEEN VERY LUCKY SO FAR.
THATZ.
YES, MY LORD?
OH, PLEASE.
I'M A THIEF, EVERY-THING'S SIMPLE.
IT WON'T BE THAT SIMPLE.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACCOM-PANY KITCHE!...
AND FIND THE THREE TREASURES.
WHAT?!

I BETTER HURRY.
It's night already.
I LOST TRACK OF TIME FEEDING THE DARNAS.
IT PUZZLES ME WHY SHE FEELS IT NECESSARY TO HIDE IT FROM ALL OF US.
GEEZ, CESIA DOES THIS EVERY DAY.
HE CAN DEAL WITH THAT WOMAN.
BUT WHY NOT SEND RUNE?
"THAT WO MAN"!
I KNOW, I KNOW.
RUNE AND I ARE USELESS AGAINST BIERREZ.
THATZ.
But Thatz?
WELL...
.....
NO.
I MUST SEND RUNE ON ANOTHER MISSION.

I WISH WHAT YOU SAID WERE TRUE,
BUT RATH HATES ME.
NO.
hee hee
WHY DO YOU ASK?
DOES RATH TELL YOU EVERY THING?
BECAUSE YOU'RE HIS CLOSEST FRIEND.
HATES YOU?
WHY?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOME DAY.
RATH KEEPS IT FROM YOU AND THATZ
HE CARES DEEPLY ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU.
WHAT?!
THATZ IS...

KAI-STERN?
HELLO.
oh...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK.
!
YES.
FINALLY.
IS HE ASLEEP?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HE'S FULL OF SURPRISES.
.....

READY, THATZ?
YOU DONE EATING?
WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?
IT'S UP TO KAI-STERN.
WE'RE LEAVING TOGETHER.
WHAT? ALREADY?
BYE.
COME ON. LET'S GO.
I haven't eaten yet
IT'S TOO SOON!
YOU, TOO, CREWGER.
TAKE CARE, GUYS.

DID YOU ARRIVE YESTER-DAY?
YEP.
THAT GUY WITH WHITE HAIR SHOWED ME IN.
HI!
THAT'S RIGHT.
...GOING WITH KITCHEL TO FIND MAP PIECES?!
WE KNOW YOU WANT TO GO DEMON-HUNTING!!
MAN! I WANNA GO DEMON-HUNTING!
Jealous
Jealous
Jealous
.....
KINDA LIKE MY LITTLE PUPPY DOG.
ha
ha
slurp
I CAN HANDLE THE JOB ALONE, BUT THE LORD INSISTS THAT THATZ TAG ALONG.

YOUR ARM...
IT'S NOT YOURS
YOU ATTACHED SOMEONE ELSE'S TO REPLACE YOUR OWN.
RATH CUT MINE OFF A LONG TIME AGO.
A GOOD FRIEND SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO GIVE ME THIS.

...THE FAERIE FOREST?
HE'S ALWAYS RUSHING AWAY, ISN'T HE?
RUNE?
THE LORD WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

DID THE MONSTER FISH VARAWOO KILL IT?
WHAT ABOUT THE WATER LIGHTS?
THE FAERIE FOREST IS DEAD?
AND SO IS --
...TINTLET?
YOU LEAVING, TOO, RUNE?

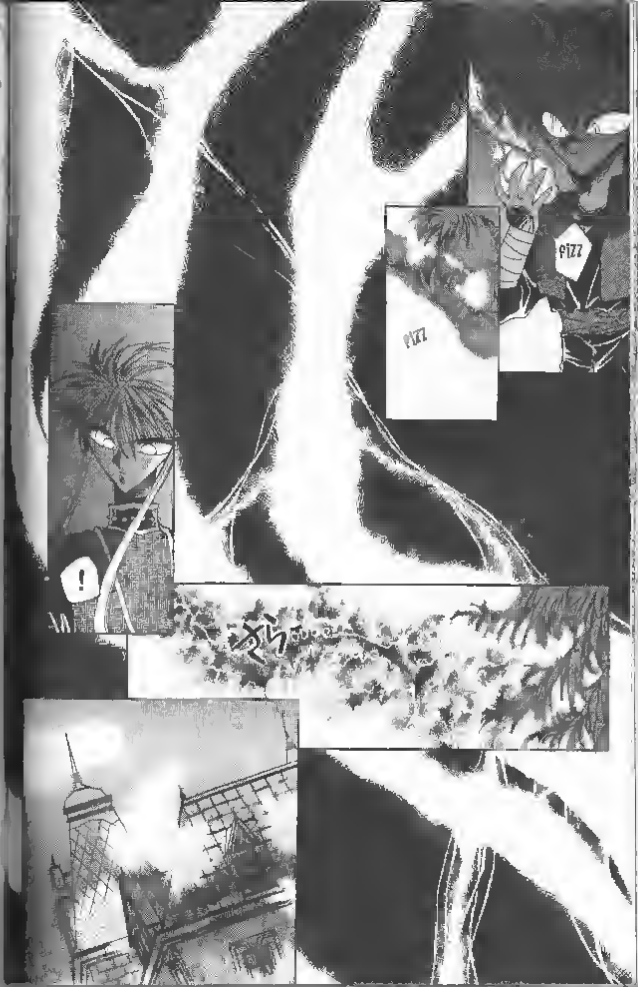
RATH!
ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM THATZ AND ME?
YES I AM.
that was easy.
.....
SQUOOZ
HUH?
WHAT?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS
.....

I WANTED TO STAY AND HELP YOU DEFEND THE CASTLE AGAINST BIERREZ.
I'M SORRY.
NO SWEAT.
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE FAERIE FOREST.
RATH ...
WELL ...
BEFORE I GO...
UM ... ER ...
LIKE I'M COMPLAINING? HEY, MORE BIERREZ ASS-KICKING FOR ME.
you better run along now
HE MAKES ME NER-VOUS

BECAUSE HE CARES DEEPLY ABOUT YOU TWO.
IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN TELL ME SOME OTHER TIME.
RATH.
.....
I CAN'T, RUNE.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW, EVER. THAT'S WHY I MUST KILL BIERREZ.
BIERREZ KNOWS WHO I TRULY AM. AND THE SECRET WILL DIE WITH HIM.

I'LL DO MY THING AND YOU DO YOURS.
NO, BUT MASTER KHARL DID.
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO THAT!
CAST A SLEEP SPELL WITH MASTER KHARL'S MAGIC DUST...
WHAT'D YOU DO?
IT WILL HAVE NO AFFECT ON DEMONS BUT WILL SEND THE DRAGON TRIBE AND ITS BROOD INTO SWEET SOMNOLENCE.

HERE. YOU CAN WAKE HIM UP WITH THAT, IF YOU WANT.
?
IT'D PROVE THE EFFICACY OF MASTER KHARL'S EXPERIMENT IF YOU EXTINGUISH RATH'S FLAME IN THE THROES OF HIS DREAMS.
BUT I'D RATH WHILE HE'S ASLEEP.


FIZZ
FIZZ
!

I ALREADY TOLD RATH ABOUT CESIA'S POWER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'LL BE A GUINEA PIG.
AS LONG AS IT STOPS RATH FROM DOING TO CESIA...
...WHAT HE DID TO ME!
BUT DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED. WE NEED THE INFORMATION YOU BRING BACK.
OH.
THEN I WISH YOU LUCK. AND MAY THE ARM THAT MASTER KHARL MADE STRONGER FOR YOU BRING YOU VICTORY AGAINST THE DRAGON KNIGHT.
RATH WILL NOT SUCCOMB TO A SIMPLE SLEEP SPELL!

WHAAAAA!
HUH?
HEY!
CESIA?
.....
!!!
TETH-EUS?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS THIS THE WORK OF DEMON MAGIC?
I AM THE DRAGON TRIBE SECRUITY OFFICER. I MUST SECURE THE CASTLE.
WHAT ?!!
He should be asleep
ARE YOU OKAY?
IT'S A SLEEP SPELL. IT AFFECTS EVERYONE EXCEPT FOR YOKAI. SO I'M FINE.

THE AIR'S POLLUTED...
SOME-ONE'S CAST A SLEEP SPELL OVER EVERY-ONE.
THE DRAGON TRIBE IS VULNER-ABLE.
thump
thump
..THE ONLY ONE STILL AWAKE?
AM I ...
OW ...
IS IT BIER-REZ?
OR ANOTHER YOKAI?

A DEMON DID THIS.
IT'S AFTER EITHER NADIL'S HEAD, OR THE LORD HIMSELF.
I'M IM-PRESSED.
OR CESIA ...
.....
SO ME MUSN'T SEPARATE.
WE CAN BOTH CHECK N THE RD.
OKAY ...
PLEASE, GO AND PROTECT THEM!
Um— Tetheus?
HMMM .....
WE PROMISED TO PROTECT YOU.
WHAT?

YOU PERFORMED THAT SLEEP SPELL WITH APLOMB.
NAH.
BUT YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK IT WOULD AFFECT ME.
SO, I ONLY ASSUME YOU CAST IT AS A WAY TO MANAGE US BEING ALONE. I THOUGHT I'D OBLIGE.
I JUST WANTED TO KILL YOU...
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
BESIDES, NOW YOU CAN FIGHT ME IN YOUR TRUE FORM RATHER THAN IN THIS RIDICULOUS SHELL. IT'S HARDLY BECOMING OF YOU.
...WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTIONS.

FREAK!
HEY!

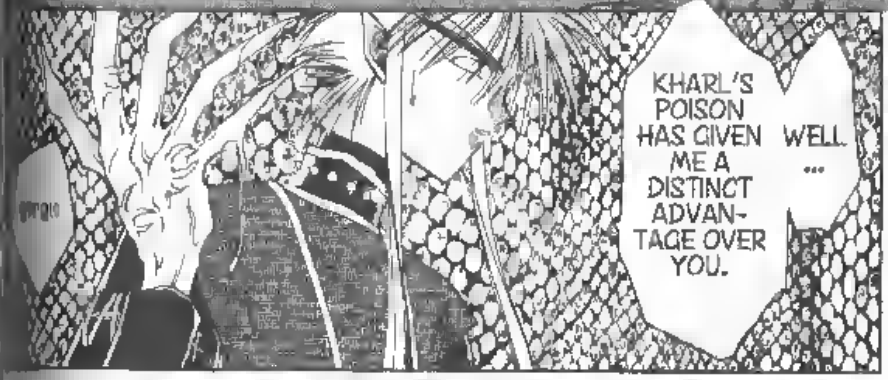
!!
UGH!
WHAT THE HELL?
YOU WON'T CATCH ME OFF GUARD!
AND THIS TIME ...

WE COULD HAVE AVOIDED THIS UNFORTUNATE BLOODLETTING.
OF COURSE, IF YOU HAD JUST ANSWERED MY QUESTION EARLIER...
I HAVE TO ADMIRE YOUR HIGH THRESHOLD FOR PAIN.
.....
BUT THANK YOU FOR YOUR ANSWER. NOW GO BACK TO SLEEP.
SWEET DREAMS, RUWALK.
UGH ...
NOW ...
I CAN'T MOVE! I'M PARALYZED

IT'S A SHAME THAT I'M GOING TO KILL YOU...
...BEFORE YOU'VE HAD A CHANCE TO DEVELOP AN IMMUNITY TO IT!
!!

KHARL?

WHAT THE...
I'M UMB-
THERE'S A SEVERED HEAD LYING ABOUT THAT I MUST BRING BACK TO MASTER KHARL. WHERE COULD IT BE?


KHARL'S POISON HAS GIVEN ME A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE OVER YOU.
WELL...

ZOMA!!
IMPOS-SIBLE!
STAND DOWN.
I WON'T LET YOU KILL RATH.
YOU'RE STAND-ING... WITH-OUT YOUR BIRD... HOW?
YOUR LEGS...

SO I'LL START THERE.
BUT THE RED OFFICER'S SPELL IS MISSING.
THIS COULD BE TOUGH.
PROTECTED BEHIND A BATTERY OF DRAGON OFFICER SPELLS, EH?

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.
ZOMA!!
RATH OR CESIA!
AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO HARM.
REMOVE THE PARALYSIS FROM HIS BODY AND BACK OFF.

CREWCER!
Shhh
!
pant
pant

SO, YOU WANT TO STEAL NADIL'S HEAD.
click
CESIA!
WHERE ARE YOU?
I HOPE SHE'S NOT ALONE ...
BUT YOU'RE NOT IN NADIL'S ARMY. SO, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT WITH IT?

THE DRAGON TRIBE IS SHORT-SIGHTED. THEY SHOULDN'T LOCK NADIL'S HEAD AWAY...
THEY SHOULD PUT IT TO USE.
YOU AGREE?

SPARE ME.
YOU'RE A HUMAN SIDING WITH NADIL.
WHY ARE YOU SIDING WITH THE DRAGON TRIBE WHOSE AIM IS TO ERADICATE YOUR PEOPLE?
BUT YOU CANNOT DENY YOUR BLOOD. YOU ARE A YOKAI.
I'M GLAD THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF HIM...
BUT HIS ROTTING HEAD!
IS SHE HIDING SOMETHING?
YOU'RE A FOOL!
MR. KHARL CAN REVIVE NADIL EASILY.
YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT, TOO. I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM.
THE POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS, YOKAI PRINCESS.
HUH?
.....
HMPH.
LEAVE HERE NOW!
AND I SUPPOSE IF I DON'T, YOU'LL CALL FOR HELP.
OR WILL YOU TAKE IT UPON YOURSELF TO CAST ME OUT.
TRY ME.
I HATE NADIL!
OKAY?!
THE FACT THAT I'M A YOKAI DOESN'T MATTER IN THE SLIGHTEST.
THE LAST THING I WANT TO SEE IS THAT ODIOUS TYRANT REVIVED AND SET LOOSE TO ENSLAVE EVEN MORE PEOPLES.

STEP ASIDE ZOMA.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
I'M ONLY AFTER RATH.
OH, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO FIGHT?

COME ON, BIERREZ. LET'S GO.
RATH!
MY BODY IS ADAPTING TO THE POISON.
ZOMA... I'M FINE.

HEH-HEH...
?
HA, HA, HA!
HA!

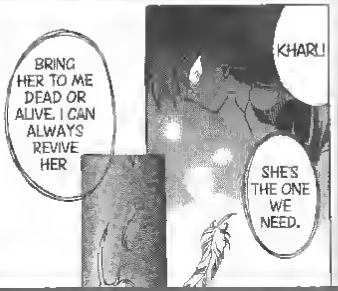
ZOMA WANTS TO PROTECT THEM.
YOU?
STOP ME?
...HEH-
HEH ...
WHAT IS THIS?

I CAN'T COM-PLETELY CONTROL MY POWERS!
I HAVE TO AVOID HARMING THE CASTLE!
UGH!

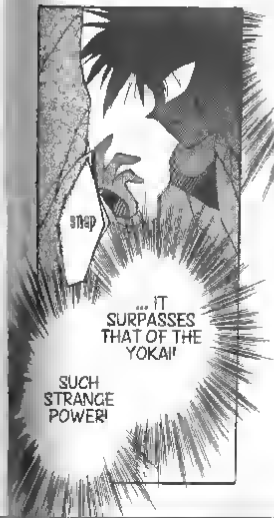
!
HUH!?
!
THAT'S ...
CESIA'S WIND?!
WHAT'S GARFAKCY DOING?!
!

!
PIUUUP
THAT'S WHY SHE'S NADIL'S FAVORITE, GARFAKCY.
AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS?
DON'T YOU WANT TO LEARN THE SECRET BEHIND THIS PHENOMENAL POWER OF HERS?
NADIL HID HER FOR GOOD REASON, YES?

LET THE DRAGON KNIGHTS TEAR BIERREZ APART.


BRING HER TO ME DEAD OR ALIVE. I CAN ALWAYS REVIVE HER
KHARL!
SHE'S THE ONE WE NEED.

BANG
!!


SNAP
... IT SURPASSES THAT OF THE YOKAI!
SUCH STRANGE POWER!

HER STRENGTH ...
PIUUU

I'LL DO IT!
SWALLOW A DEATH SEED, YOKAI!
?!
SWish
CREWGER!!
TSK!

ZIP!
!
WHERE YOU GOING?
CESIA'S FIGHTING!
BUT WHO?!
GWOOSH
!

.....
T-T-T-T
She's strong...
I CAN KILL HER, EH?
!
WE'LL SETTLE THIS LATER!
I TRUST NEITHER OF US WANT THEM TO STEAL AWAY WITH CESIA, RIGHT?
FIRM

CREWGER?
CREWGER!
Uhhh.
NO.
NO.
NO!
.....
OH,
NO...
SOB

YOU FOUL HUMAN!
WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?!
IT'S NOT JUST NADIL'S HEAD THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?!
MY MASTER, KHARL THE ALCHEMIST -
WANTS YOU... DEAD OR ALIVE... PRINCESS.
YOU SHOULD FEEL HONORED
DROP

GAR-FAKCY!!
!!
CA-WACK
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CESIA?!
BIERREZ!
WHAT HAVEN'T YOU DONE TO RATH?! HE SHOULD BE DEAD.
pant
OH ...
OH, RATH!
RATH!!
RATH!!

!!
TAKE ...
ME ...
YOU ... WON'T ...
AWAY!
!
AARGH!!

ZZZ
YES.
NADIL'S HEAD INTRIGUES ME.
BUT NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS THE GIRL'S POWER.
I WANT HER.
KHARL!
KHARL!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
I CONTROL YOU, BIERREZ.

I... I LET CREWGER DIE!
IT'S OKAY. I KNEW HE'D DO THIS SOMEDAY.
I'M SORRY!!
IT'S... IT'S MY FAULT.
RATH?
MASTER KHARL HAS CHANGED HIS MIND.
I'LL KILL RATH LATER.
NOW, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT WITH CESIA.
WELL, BIERREZ. WERE YOU ABLE TO WORK OUT YOUR DIFFERENCES WITH THE OBJECT OF YOUR SCORN? OR DID RATH BEAT YOU?

BIERREZ! GET HER! I'VE PARALYZED RATH, AGAIN!
!
BIERREZ! DON'T!
UGH ...
BIER ...
BIERREZ! LET GO OF HER!
.....
Uhhhh

ARGHHHHHH!
?!
WHAT THE...?
BIERREZ
I'VE RIDDLED YOUR ARM...
... WITH SO MUCH POISON AND DEMON SEED...
YOU ARE NOW MINE, MIND, BODY AND SOUL.
CESIA!
KILL

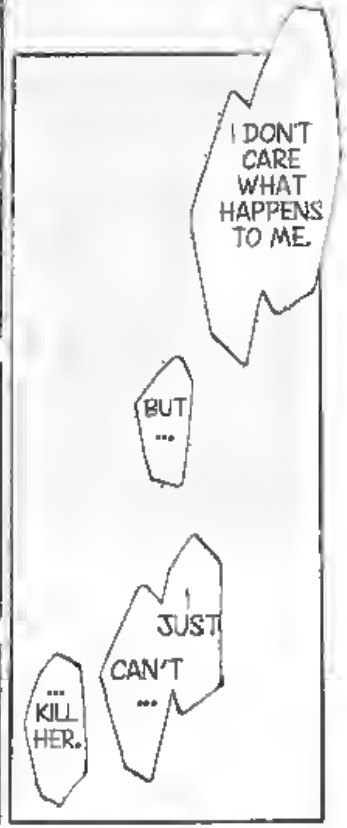
RAA ... TH ...
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
HE LET HER GO?!
YOU MUST ...
KILL...
ME...!
I CAN'T FIGHT THIS POSES-SION!
CESIA?!

IT'S NO USE.
MASTER KHARL CONTROLS HIM NOW.
CESIA, BIERREZ?!
BIERREZ!
BIERREZ! THAT'S CESIA!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL CESIA!
ZOMA?
IT'S CESIA!
UNUH
UNUH
CESIA?!

!
ZOMA!

Uhh...
GET THAT HUMAN KID OUTTA HERE.

YOU GOT IT!


I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.
BUT ...
I JUST CAN'T ...
... KILL HER.

BUZZ
KHARL!
COME BACK, GAR-FAKCY!

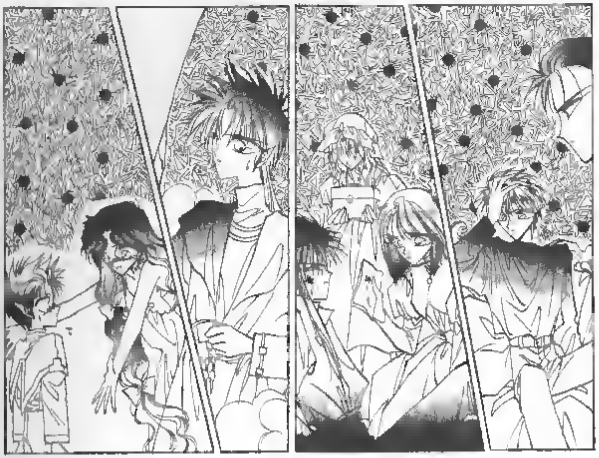
CESIA...
SHE HAS GREAT POWER.
YOU NEED HER POWER.
BUT DON'T ... HURT HER ...

I...
... AGREE.

I'M BECOMING A MONSTER.
A MONSTER LIKE ME SHOULD DIE...

I WASN'T GOING TO GIVE HER TO NADIL'S ARMY.
thump
thump
YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS PROTECT CESIA.

YES.
I SUP-POSE SO.



MOUNT MFARTHA?

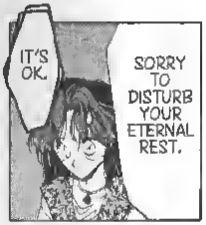
I STILL WOULD HAVE...
BUT EVEN IF YOU HAD BEEN A HUMAN.
NADIL'S SPELL DISGUISED YOU AS A HUMAN. THEN.
MENU

THANK YOU, SIRE!
MAN.
YOU ARE FREE TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS, CESIA.
NO!
CAN I GO HUNT DEMONS, TOO?
BE CARE-FUL.
all alone
WE SAID, NO!
could be a lot of demons
CAN'T I GO WITH HER?
hey look
SIR

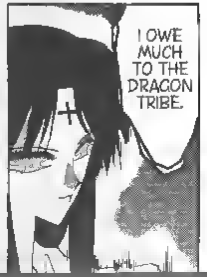
THE WITCH TOLD ME ONCE
THAT MT. MFARTHA'S LEGENDARY BEAST CAN RESURRECT THE DEAD.
I'D LIKE TO REVIVE
CREW-GER!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS A JOURNEY FOR YOU TO EMBARK UPON.
I'LL SEND SOME-ONE ELSE.
NO! I MUST GO.
NADIL'S ARMY KEEPS IT A SECRET.
ONLY A FEW YOKAI KNOW.
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT STORY.

I'M NOT YOUR TOY!
AND CONDE-SCEND TO ME!
I HATE IT WHEN YOU CODDLE ME.

RATH!


IT'S OK.
SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR ETERNAL REST.

THANKS FOR RETURNING TO FULFILL MY DUTIES, SARAZAR.
I'LL BE GONE FOR AWHILE.
BOW


I OWE MUCH TO THE DRAGON TRIBE.

I'M SUR-PRISED YOU LET CESIA GO.

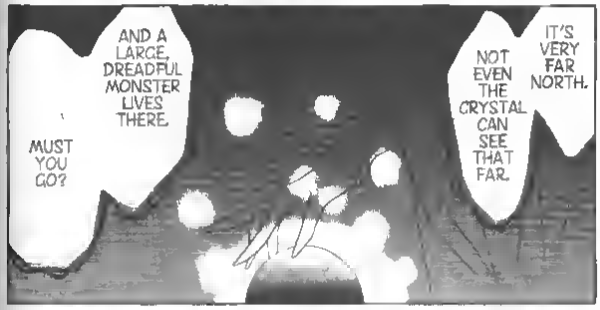
....
WHY WOULDN'T I?

YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT HER POWER ALL ALONG.

RATH?
CAN'T YOU TRUST ME...
!!
THAT I HAVE NO PLANS TO USE HER FOR OUR PURPOSES.
AH. SO RATH, YOU ASSUMED ...

SOON YOU WILL LEARN YOUR DESTINY...
AND IT MAY LEAD THE WORLD TO RUIN.
HOW-EVER...
YOUR DESTINY ALSO HOLDS THE KEY TO SAVING THE WORLD.
PHEW!
I CAN BREATHE!

YES.
MY MIND'S MADE UP.
SO ...
YOU'RE GOING TO MT. MFAR-THA?


AND A LARGE, DREADFUL MONSTER LIVES THERE.
MUST YOU GO?
IT'S VERY FAR NORTH.
NOT EVEN THE CRYSTAL CAN SEE THAT FAR.

BUT, CESIA...
DO NOT FORGET...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
AFTER I LEARN HOW TO BRING CREWGER BACK TO LIFE, I'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!
oh, but I will
I HAVE TO!
I OWE HIM.

HE OWES ME.
A FRIEND.
WHERE'S RATH?
QUIETLY STARING OUT THE WINDOW.
they'll find out
WHY'S RATH SO RECK-LESS?!
DARN IT!
UH-HUH
HE LEFT FIRE BEHIND!
sigh
THEY ARE GONE.
.....
CREAK
SIGH
WEIRD. KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

.....
LET'S SEE...
THUD!
THUD
THUD
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
HEH-HEH, HEH
HEY.
.....
STAND-IN?!
WHO?
...SO I GOT A STAND-IN.
I FELT THE NEED TO KICK SOME SERIOUS DEMON BUTT...
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T ABANDON THE CASTLE!

Dragon Knights

Preview for Volume 5:

The Dragon Knights have been dispatched again in the service of the Dragon Lord, but this time to three different corners of the realm. Thatz, reluctantly reunited with Kitchi, journeys to find the three treasures. Rath, reluctantly guarding Cesia, travels to Mt. Martha. And Rune, having regained his elfin powers, heads toward the Faerie Forest, concerned for his brethren. The battle to save the peaceful lands is looking grim, and with Khari the Alchemist vying for the power of both Cesia and Nadil, the Dragon Tribe is taking a risk spreading its forces thin, especially with reports of demon forces closing in on them from all sides.

Mineko Ohkami

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DRAGON KNIGHTS 4 • THE END